

Applicants' specification states that the term "glass", as used in Applicants' invention, covers any light-passing cover suitable for use with a motor vehicle light unit, and does not need to be made literally of a material glass. In this regard, claim 1 does not recite "glass material" but instead only recites "glass" in accordance with the specification. Page 8, lines 1-26, for example, explains how the plastic material of the car bumper can form the glass of claim 1 (i.e., a light passing cover). Claim 1 is thus clear because Applicants' specification defines "glass" and one skilled in the art would understand how plastic material can form the "glass" as defined in Applicants' specification.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Haneda et al. (Haneda), U.S. Patent No. 4,996,634, in view of Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 4,809,144. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Haneda and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest a combination of a car bumper and a light unit, with the car bumper comprising an outside skin formed by a wall of plastics material and the light unit having, as component elements, both a housing and glass enabling light emitted by a light source to be diffused, wherein the component element of the light unit formed by the outside skin is the glass, the glass being assembled to the outside skin in a permanent and non-removable manner, as recited in claim 1.

Page 2 of the Office Action states that the Examiner is assuming that the glass is attached to the plastic outside skin. The interpretation is not correct for the reasons discussed above. In particular, the glass is not attached to the plastic outside skin. As recited in claim 1, the component element of the light unit formed by the outside skin is the glass and the glass is assembled to the outside skin in a permanent and non-removable manner.

Applicants maintain the arguments presented in the Amendment filed August 22, 2005. Applicants also respond to the argument presented on page 6 of the Office

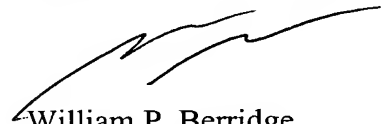
Action. As stated in the Office Action, using Suzuki's lens 2 to close the open end of Haneda's lamp housing would have flown naturally to one of ordinary skill in the art. However, what would have flown naturally from Haneda and Suzuki is to attach Suzuki's lens 2 to Haneda's bumper shell 1 or signal lamp 10 via isolated connection points (in order to periodically remove the lens 2 in order to replace the bulb), which would concentrate stresses. Using the outside skin of a car bumper to form the glass would not have flown naturally from Haneda and Suzuki, nor would have the additional advantage of continuously transmitting stresses to the remainder of the bumper by using the outside skin of the car bumper to form the glass.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:SMS/sxb

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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